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My Week

by R. J. Deachman

We watch our greatest tragedies—look smug and pass by on the other side. Great fires have been making headway in the forests of Ontario Quebec and Manitoba. These forests were centuries in the making. They pass in a day and those now living will never see them again in all their glory.

In many trips east and west I have watched these trees, snugged down under blankets of snow in winter, lovely in their lush beauty in the summer, gorgeous in their autumn foliage, bleak now in their incomparable misery. What a price the future will pay for the tragedies of these years of carelessness.

Can anything be done about it? Oh yes, more fire towers to watch incipient fires, roads to reach thru the fire areas and above all a campaign to drive into the minds of all those who go near these forests that it is a crime against humanity to tolerate even the shado wof a fire, unless perfectly guarded.

Then why not something to replace these burnt out areas? There are thousands of acres in old Ontario if only for growing trees — they should be turned into municipal forests. There are spots along every highway where a windbreak of trees would be a great benefit as a protection against drifts in winter, a source of timber in future years. Here and there are old graveyards, long since abandoned. They should be planted with maples and elms, a monument far more fitting than marble to the great men, the pioneers, who cleared the forests. Then going one step forward why not in every township at least a hundred acres of solid bush as a memorial to the daring men who came here when Canada was a wilderness. They were the makers of Canada—to them all glory and honor.

Then British Columbia and its floods! Floods are controllable. This is the type of thing which governments should direct their attention. It comes within the natural ambit of their powers. If it is not done then recurring floods will put the danger areas under a terrible disadvantage. The threat becomes more or less a permanent nightmare, a blight which will destroy even the richest areas over a period of years.

A this looks as if I were preaching a sermon. I am not, but if I were, whats wrong with my text? This is an age in which we are obsessed with the idea of social services applied to almost every phase of life but if, by our inaction, we neglect the more important problem, the increase of our capacity to produce, what then will happen to us and our social services.

But let me turn to a lighter matter. Once years ago I roome dwith a young lawyer down on Beach Ave, Vancouver, we decided one Saturday to go up the river for a trip, Agassiz or Harrison Hot Springs. Its so long ago I am not quite sure which place it was. We were young then, neither of us was married until some years later. I registered for both of us and before the name of my friend I wrote the abbreviation "Rev.". Just before I left I glanced over the hotel register to see if I knew any of the fresh arrivals and that room mate of mine had written after my name these words, "and wife." Yet he was one of the finest men I ever knew.

BABY BONUS

* * *

A report here indicates that Family Allowance payments by the Canadian government has reached a total of $680,937,870.90 since inception in July of 1945, with these payments in 1947-48 totalling $263,165,192.33 as compared with $245,140,431.59 in 1946-47 or $172,632,146.98 in 1945-46 showing a progressive increase in the cost of such payments to the federal treasury. In the latest monthly period for which information is available here, April 1948, the number of families getting such paymtnts across Canada reached 1,674,526 with 3,765,909 children for an average allowance per child of $5.91 and per family of $13.36 with the total payment for the month being $22,277,406.

MAN WITH A BAND

Art Hallman, Canadian orchestra leader and vocalist, who recently completed 20 years entertaining radio listeners with the popular music for which he is noted. Today his voice and orchestra are heard frequently in CBC broadcasts from Toronto.

a word about *Personal Purchases* in the U.S.

- If you are contemplating a trip to the United States, here are two important facts to remember:
- You may not bring back with you any merchandise which is prohibited under the Emergency Exchange Conservation Act. Find out in advance from Canadian Customs officials whether you may bring in any contemplated purchase.
- To conserve all available U.S. dollars for essential purchases, a travel ration of $150 U.S. per person for the 12 months between Nov. 15, 1947 and Nov. 15, 1948 has been established. Be sure to get the necessary forms and details at your bank, well in advance of your trip.

This caution is given to help avoid possible embarrassment at border points.

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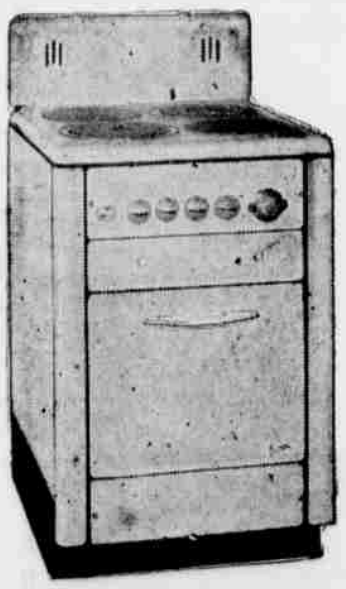

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RAIN - At the Opera House

DANCE SATURDAY

SHINE - At the Pavillion